THE RAGTIME SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CLASSIC RAGTIME

P.O. BOX 8 KING, ONT., CANADA

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It is very gratifying to find that there are so many Canadians and Americans interested in Classic Ragtime. As we stated in our original letter, we will try to disseminate as much information as possible on history, available reading material, music, performers, and coming events. Needless to say, our ability to do things economically will depend in part on our members. This second letter is being sent to the same list as our first letter. After this one we will only send to those people who have indicated their interest in the Society by sending their $2.00 to help defray the cost of printing and mailing for a year. If you have anyone that you think should be interested, please let us know and we will send them the current letter.

We thought that the first newsletter should set out a list of what is available in books, sheet music, player piano rolls, and records. We have tried to show approximate U.S. and Canadian prices, and where the items can be obtained. If you have any difficulty in finding any of the items that you want, let us know, and we will try to get them for you. Since we would likely be getting a number of each item, we could acquire them easier than you could, particularly if you live in an area that does not have good distribution of books or records.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

"They All Played Ragtime" - Rudi Blesh and Harriet Janis.
If you don't have this book you should buy it at once. It is the only excellent history. U.S. $2.00 Canada $2.25

"Jazz Report" - a monthly magazine. It has a lot of Jazz information, but it also has excellent articles about Ragtime.
U.S. $2.50/yr. Canada $3.00/yr. Address: 357 Leighton Drive, Ventura, California.

SHEET MUSIC

"The Ragtime Folio". Contains nine Classic Rags by Joplin, Scott, Lamb, etc. It is supposed to be just out of print, but try your local music store. U.S. $1.25 Canada $1.50. Published by Melrose Music, 35 West 51st. Street, New York 19, N.Y. In Canada, E. H. Morris Canada Limited, 14 Birch Avenue, Toronto 7, Ontario.

"The Favourite" Scott Joplin originally and still published by the Perry Music Company, Sedalia, Mo. Price 50¢.

Some music stores still have a few items such as "Black and White Rag" by George Botsford. You will just have to look.

RECORDS

"Bob Darch Ragtime Piano" - Bob Darch - United Artists UAL-3120 U.S. $3.50 Canada $4.20.
We think that this record available in both mono and stereo, is excellent. Bob doesn't play the music precisely as it was written, but it is in the proper mood with lots of feeling.

"A Study in Classic Ragtime" - Joseph Lamb - Folkways FG-3562 $5.00.
Joe recorded this less than a year before he died. A wonderful record of his talking and playing.

"The Professors" - Brun Campbell and Dink Johnson - Euphonic Records. 357 Leighton Drive, Ventura, California. $5.00.
This record is very new and excellent. The quality is not the best; however, Paul Affeldt (Euphonic Records) has done an excellent job with the material he had to work with. Our particular interest is the Brun Campbell side. I once asked Eubie Blake, "What original performer does my friend Bob Darch sound like?" He answered, "Brun Campbell-The Ragtime Kid". You will see why when you hear this record.

"The Complete Works of Scott Joplin" - Knocky Parker - AudioPhile Records, Saukville, Wis. AP-71/72 U.S. $10.00 Canada $13.00.
These two LP's are in our opinion excellent. Knocky does not play the music as written, and only plays the 50 odd tunes in capsule form. His interpretations however, are done with a light hand and excellent taste.

"Essay in Ragtime" - Ann Charters - Folkways FG-3563 $5.00
This record is hard to describe. It is perfectly played and technically correct - but stilted. Mrs. Charters does not, in our opinion, make the music flow pleasantly. It is laboured. However, it is well recorded and contains rare tunes like "Victory Rag" and "Pastime Rag #5".

"Wally Rose Ragtime Classics" - Wally Rose - Good Time Jazz M-12034.
Wally Rose is an excellent player who interprets Classic Rags well, playing them closely to how they were written. This record, in our opinion, is marred by the fact that he has bass and drum accompaniment which is much too dominant. They hinder his performance.

There are other records, such as the two LP's of piano rolls on Riverside, but they are recorded too fast. Some others are now out of print, such as the 10" Ralph Sutton. If you have any trouble getting any of the above, let us know and we will get them for you.

Now - to activities of the Society. We hope to produce one piece of Classic Ragtime sheet music (now in the public domain) every month. Our ability to produce music will definitely be a function of how many of you want it. If you don't want this first issue but want the music in principle, please let us know. We will have to have about 25 people take a copy to even barely meet expenses on printing. Later we hope to produce a piano roll a month - but more about that in future issues of the Bulletin. We feel it is fitting that the first music we will do is

"Original Rags" by Scott Joplin. Originally published by Carl Hoffman of Kansas City in 1899. We will print on paper 8½ x 11 inches, with a standard music format. The music will be available to members at a dollar a copy. If you want a copy, send us a dollar - we will ship it flat by return mail.

Next issue we will talk about living Ragtime performers, both old and young. We will also tell you where they will be playing for the next few months. We will also list available good commercial player piano rolls (this will be a short list). Planned for the future - an interview with Joe Jordan - a complete list of all tunes written by Joseph Lamb (almost 50 more than covered in "They All Played Ragtime") - a list of our members - and, we hope, articles proffered by some of our more well known and experienced collector and performer members. Any criticisms and suggestions gratefully accepted.

John A. Fisher

P.S. We assume you will have quite a bit of trouble getting many of the items we have listed. We have contacted and made arrangements to obtain supplies, so if you want us to get you any item, send us the money and itemize what you want.